

# TRADE



# TODAY

## TRADE ISSUES AFFECTING AMERICA'S ECONOMY

*U.S. Congressman Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member, Ways & Means Trade Subcommittee*

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### **TRADE ALERT!** Obama Administration requests public comments on U.S. trade

**agreements with Colombia and South Korea.** USTR is conducting a review of the pending trade agreements with South Korea and Colombia. Written comments are due by noon, September 15, 2009. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Contact: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, USTR Trade Policy Staff Committee, (202) 395-3475.



### INCREASING AMERICAN EXPORTS TO KEY U.S. ALLIES



#### **SOUTH KOREA**

- South Korea is our 7<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner, our 5<sup>th</sup> largest agriculture export market, and our 8<sup>th</sup> largest market for manufactured goods.
- Two-way trade in goods reached \$83 billion last year.
- Implementation of the agreement would increase U.S. goods exports to Korea by \$10 to 11 billion and increase U.S. GDP by \$10 to 12 billion.
- The average Korean tariff on U.S. exports is more than four times the average tariff that Korean products face in the U.S. market, so the agreement levels the playing field for U.S. exports. Approximately 80% of tariff lines on U.S. exports would go to zero immediately upon implementation.
- The EU and India are moving ahead with agreements to secure access in South Korea for their exports, threatening U.S. jobs.



#### **COLOMBIA**

- The delay in implementation of the agreement has cost U.S. exporters over \$2 billion in unnecessary tariffs. The agreement is projected to increase U.S. exports to Colombia by more than \$1.1 billion.
- More than 10,000 U.S. companies export to Colombia, of which approximately 8,500 are small and medium-sized firms.
- Canada and the EU are poised to complete trade agreements with Colombia, giving their exporters an advantage over American exporters and workers.
- This agreement will anchor longstanding ties with a vital regional ally while promoting economic growth and poverty reduction and strengthening peace, democracy, freedom and reform within our hemisphere.

\* For more district-specific information please contact the Ways & Means Republican Trade Subcommittee Staff at (202) 225-4021.

**Continued...**

## TRADE ROUNDUP

**Chinese Tires:** The Obama Administration must decide by September 17 whether to implement, modify, or reject the International Trade Commission recommendation to impose a 55 percent safeguard tariff on the importation of Chinese tires – a case brought by United Steelworkers Union but not U.S. manufacturers of tires. The President, by statute, is directed to determine whether the imposition of relief would not be in the national economic interest, defined as whether the imposition of relief would have an adverse impact on the U.S. economy clearly greater than its benefits.

**WTO Doha Meetings:** The first formal Doha meeting of trade ministers since July 2008 was held last week in New Delhi, India. Following the meetings U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk said, “This fall can be a critical window for meaningful progress on the Doha talks. We need to make progress now to ensure the health of the Round itself... It is time to move the Doha Round forward with reinvigorated and meaningful negotiations.”

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